

REMARKS

The application includes claims 1-3 and 5-29 prior to entering this amendment. Claims 1-2 and 17-22 were previously withdrawn, and claim 4 was cancelled in a previous amendment. In the present action, the Office withdrew claims 23-27 from consideration under the prior election. Accordingly, the claims currently under examination on the merits are claims 3, 5-16 and 28-29. These stand rejected. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections for the reasons explained below, and requests reconsideration. A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is submitted herewith, so finality of the previous action should be deemed withdrawn.¹

In this amendment, claims 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 16 and 28 are amended. No further claims are added or canceled.

Specification

The examiner objected to the disclosure, requesting that the Related Applications section be updated. The requested changes are submitted above. The amendment is believed to obviate the objection to the specification.

Also in the specification, at page 11, a voluntary correction is made to delete a short paragraph that merely duplicates a paragraph that appears earlier on the same page (except for trivial differences). No new matter is introduced by deleting the duplicative material.

In the drawings, a voluntary correction is made to FIG. 3, box 78. As the examiner can see, the text in box 76 was inadvertently repeated in box 78. The corrected text is supported by the specification as filed, at page 5, first and second full paragraphs (Beginning with, "Having provided ... and concluding, "and the packet is transmitted at 78."). The corrected drawing should be entered as it presents no new matter.

Alleged Substantive Rejections

The examiner rejected claims 3-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Hundscheidt (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0233907). The examiner asserts, with regard to claim 3, that Hundscheidt discloses a method for processing a connection request in a network. The examiner stated:

"The GGSN receives a PDP context activate and request to join a multicast from a mobile per Pg 8 Para [0112]. The Mobile station has a user which utilize application or software on the mobile requests to join a TLMG [transport level

¹ 37 CFR 1.114(d)
AMENDMENT

multicast group]². The examiner interprets the mobiles in conjunction with the GGSN³ as a centralized network.”⁴

Applicant's claim 3, however, is directed to a very different type of network. Indeed, it is both centralized and wired, not wireless:

3. (Currently amended) A method of establishing communications in a centralized wired network, the method comprising:

providing a centralized wired network characterized by having a single, common physical wired connection interconnecting all devices currently attached to the network, so that all communications among the attached network devices travel directly over the wired connection without traversing a router or switch, or a wireless link...

The foregoing claim limitation alone distinguishes over Hundscheidt. Plainly there is no “single, common physical wired connection” between all the devices in the network disclosed by Hundscheidt. More specifically, there is no such connection between the mobile unit and the GGSN server relied upon by the examiner.⁵ For at least these reasons, claims 3-12 are not anticipated and should be allowed.

Further with regard to claim 5; as amended, it calls for:

“5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, determining that a connection needs to be established further comprising determining that a connection does not exist and automatically establishing a connection and further wherein the centralized wired network comprises a power line communication (PLC) network.” The reference does not disclose the claimed method *in a power line communication network*. Claim 5 should be allowed.

Further regarding claim 3; as amended, it also recites, in part:

“attaching a device to the centralized wired network so that the device is electrically coupled to the common wired connection;

providing at least one service access point (SAP) in the attached device, each service access point arranged for interfacing with a corresponding specific type of application data;”

² Hundscheidt Para. [0032]

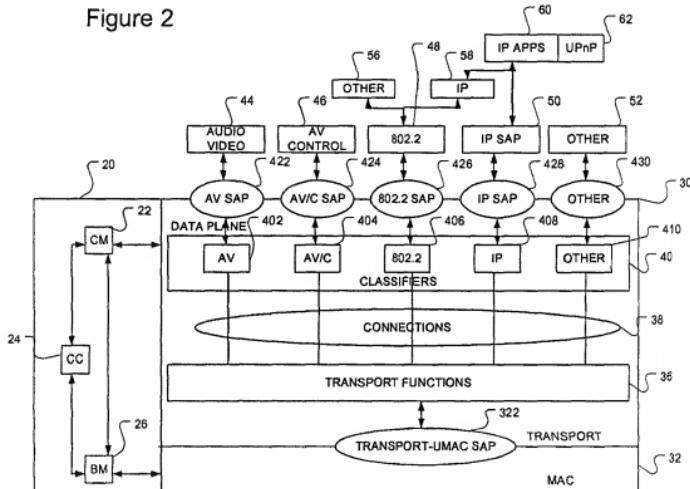
³ Gateway GPRS Support Node. GPRS is of course the packet-switched enhancement of GSM. Hundscheidt Para. [0015].

⁴ Office action, Para. bridging pages 3-4, emphasis added.

⁵ The claim limitations are added in part in view of the examiner's Response to Amendment (pages 8-9) calling for more explicit claim language.

Importantly, the examiner contends that, “the GSSN [*sic* GGSN] is the service access point which is requested by software or an application in the mobile...”⁶ But the present claim describes an entirely different arrangement. The GGSN in the Hundscheidt mobile network is remote from the mobile device; it certainly is *not* attached, “so that the device is electrically coupled to the common wired connection” as claimed. Further, the claim calls for, “providing at least one service access point (SAP) in the attached device.” The service access point (SAP) of the present claim is disposed in each device attached to the wired network. And the SAP provides a very different function than the GGSN. As claimed, the SAP is, “arranged for interfacing with a corresponding specific type of application data” in the attached device. It provides interfacing to the transport layer. For example, Applicant’s FIG. 2 (below) illustrates one embodiment of, “a device usable in a centralized communication system.”⁷ See service access points SAP 422, 424, 426 interfacing to the transport layer 30.

Figure 2



For at least these additional reasons, claims 3 and 6-12 should be allowed.

⁶ Office action, page 4, with regard to claim 7.

⁷ Specification at page 2, lines 12-13 (Brief Description of the Drawings).

Section 103(a) Grounds for Rejection

The examiner rejected claims 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Hundscheidt in view of Nguyen (U.S. Patent No. 5,570,359). Claim 13 is amended to clarify that it is directed to, “a method of establishing a multicast connection in a centralized wired communication system.” As discussed earlier, Hundscheidt discloses a wireless telecom system, so a *prima facie* case of obviousness is not established. In addition, claim 13 calls for, “wherein each connection is associated with a corresponding service access point of a transport layer of the source device.” See the illustration above. As discussed, Hundscheidt does not disclose service access points within each attached (source) device as claimed. For at least these additional reasons, claims 13-15 should be allowed.

The examiner rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Birdwell (U.S. Patent No. 5,928,324) in view of Sloan (U.S. Patent No. 5,928,324). Birdwell, however, discloses a “Data Delivery System and Method for Delivering Computer Data over a Broadcast Network.” (title). This refers to a *broadcast* network in the sense of broadcast satellite, RF, microwave, television, etc. (Abstract). Claim 16 is currently amended to clarify that it describes a method in a wired network, viz:

“16. (Currently amended) A method of broadcasting a message in a centralized wired power line communication network, the method comprising:

providing a centralized wired network characterized by having a single, common physical wired connection interconnecting all devices attached to the network, so that all communications among the attached network devices travel directly over the wired connection;

requesting a bandwidth allocation from a central coordinator attached to the wired network;

receiving an indication of a bandwidth allocation on a dedicated broadcast channel within the centralized wired network; the dedicated bandwidth channel defined as a logical channel on the common physical wired connection interconnecting all devices attached to the power line communication network; and

transmitting a broadcast message according to the bandwidth allocation on the dedicated broadcast channel of the centralized network in accordance with the received indication of a bandwidth allocation so that the broadcast message travels directly across the network over the

common physical wired connection from the transmitting device to every other device ~~or~~
attached to the centralized network without traversing an intermediary broadcast facility."

The current amendments also clarify that according to the claimed method the requested bandwidth allocation is not itself necessarily delivered over the dedicated bandwidth channel. More commonly, the recited "indication of a bandwidth allocation" may be over a different channel. The actual "broadcast message" is what is transmitted over the dedicated bandwidth channel, which is a logical channel over the wired power line communication network.⁸ At least these features are not disclosed in the references; claims 16, 28 and 29 therefore should be allowed.

The examiner objected to claims 28 and 29 for informalities. These objections are believed to be obviated by the present amendments. Claim 29 depends from claim 28, which in turn depends from claim 16, addressed above. These claims therefore are believed to be in condition for allowance.

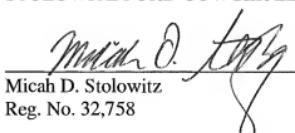
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 3, 5-16 and 28-29 of the application as amended is requested. The examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 224-2170 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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⁸ See Specification at page 2, line 29 to page 3, line 15; and page 22.
AMENDMENT

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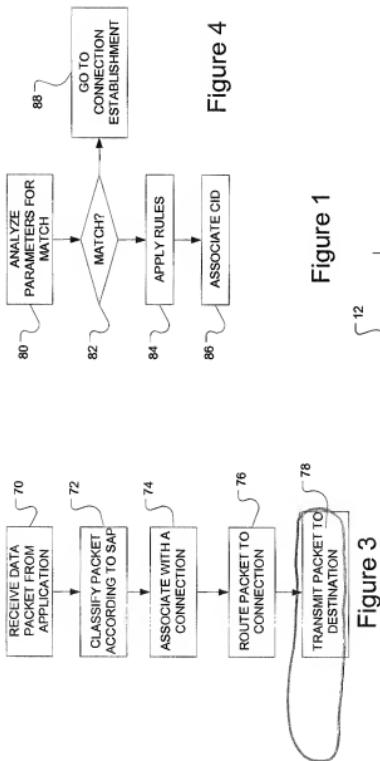


Figure 1

